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of £103,681,600. The amount is incredible, yet the authority is not likely to err on the side of excess.

"It is not necessary to follow the special 'upward march' of this expenditure, and to show how the increase for the present year amounts to over £4,000,000, and the total of such increases for the last six years to the enormous sum of £60,914,502, justifying the remark of one of the chief combatants in the late election, that 'this increase of expenditure, not by hundreds of thousands, but by tens of millions, will go on year after year, and must mean increased taxation.' Of course it must, especially during a war; but the mischief is that every increase is more or less permanent. The total never falls quite to the old level. The 'march' is persistent and regular.

"Now this is a very serious matter, involving the financial stability and prosperity, and ultimately the very existence, of the nation. How long can this 'upward march' be sustained? How far is even the wealthiest nation from the edge of that awful precipice which means financial ruin? These are surely questions which trouble the patriotic financiers of the age — if there are any. To the moralist and the humanitarian, the problem has other aspects. What might not be done with these enormous sums in removing the social miseries, promoting the welfare, improving the education and character, and generally ameliorating the condition of the masses of mankind? Surely, in this enlightened age these must be reckoned among the main purposes of civilized government.

"The time has passed forever when the people can be considered as existing for rulers and their personal quarrels, though doubtless for some time to come they will be so used whenever by misinformation and an appeal to their brute passions the fighting frenzy can be stirred within them. The warfare of the future, however, as Mr. Choate, the American ambassador, recently declared, will — at any rate between the foremost nations — be waged in the commercial arena; and it is not a good augury for the two neighbor nations, England and France, that they spend more than four times as much upon their military defenses as upon the education of their citizens. Quintus Curtius, the Roman knight, who spurred his steed into the yawning gulf in the Forum, was right when he declared that Rome had no greater treasure than her sons. The curse of militarism is that it sacrifices the greatest treasure of the state by debasing the coinage; that is, by placing more value, in this strife and rivalry of the nations, upon the drilled automaton than the cultured and developed man. The future is to the nation that will train its manhood rather than its soldiers.

"Here we are brought face to face with that aspect of the question which concerns the Christian philanthropist, and should, more than any other, occupy the churches! 'The greatest evil of war,' said Dr. Channing, 'is moral evil.' Religion distinguishes between the animal and the higher nature of man, and its function is to develop the higher, the spiritual. 'If ye live after the flesh,' it says, 'ye shall die,' and fighting is after the flesh, among those 'deeds of the body' which are, it says, to be mortified. Christianity condemns war by condemning the passions that lead to war. 'Whence come wars and fighting

among you? Come they not hence even of your lusts which war in your members?'

"And then it sets itself to overcome and chasten and subdue the lusts of empire, of greed, of aggrandizement and conquest, just as surely as any others, and to inculcate the Golden Rule and the Law of Christ.

"Do what we will, the question will come to all true patriots, in their quiet moments, What is the real end of national life? Has it nothing higher than what is represented by militarism? Has man no nobler mission than to be 'a wolf to his fellow-man'?"

To the Victors and the Defeated.

BY EDWIN ARNOLD BRENHOLTZ.

O perfect day!
 Sky of the bluest blue!
 Oblivious thou that yesterday
 Our own hands threw
 The die of destiny,
 A nation's destiny,
 A whole world's destiny.
 Knowest thou that destiny?
 Showest thou that destiny,
 O perfect day?
 O perfect day!
 Oblivious to all acts of ours;
 Well knowing that supernal powers
 Hold us always
 Within the hollow of a hand —
 Lest we should mar a plan that's planned,
 By Love Divine,
 E'en by a hair's breadth line.
 O perfect day!
 Teach each of us repose;
 Teach each of us He knows
 The perfect way
 To perfect, perfect plans —
 Control these lives He scans,
 And bring the whole
 Perfected to the Over-Soul.

TURNERSVILLE, TEXAS.

New Books.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE AT THE HAGUE. By Frederick W. Holls, D. C. L. New York: The Macmillan Company. 8mo, cloth. 572 pages. Price \$3.

Mr. Holls, in giving the public this book, has made it possible for any who so desire to understand the work and real significance of the Hague Peace Conference. There has hitherto been no authoritative publication in English on the proceedings of the Conference. Its sessions and those of the Committees were all held in secret, and only meagre statements of the discussions were made public. This has left the public much in ignorance, — not so much of what was finally done, for the full text of the Conventions has been published, — but of the course of the debates and the obstacles and difficulties which had to be met and overcome. Out of this ignorance has, unfortunately, grown the impression with many persons that the Conference was almost a failure.